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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Housekeepers' Chat

Tuesday, March 11, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "The Dining Room of a Homelike House," Information from "Art in Every Day Life," Goldstein. Recipe from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Publication available: "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes."

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Last week we talked about the living room of a home-like house; today we shall discuss the dining room, and its furnishings.

The dining room furnishings depend somewhat upon where the room is located. Is it a separate room? Then it may be furnished with the traditional dining room furniture -- table, chairs, sideboard, and serving table.

Is your dining room an alcove, adjoining the living room? Is it actually a part of the living room? Then perhaps you find it more interesting to use less conventional furniture -- a highboy or a chest of drawers, for example, and a gateleg or drop-leaf table.

The average person wants to have a restful time at meals, and it is difficult to be restful in a room which does not look restful. If there are many objects and much pattern in the room, it will look confusing, and when the large number of pieces of silver, china, and glass, which make up the table service, are brought in, they will increase the unrest. The first thing to do, then, to obtain a restful dining room, is to keep the background simple; second, to display very few objects; and third, to place the table appointments in an orderly arrangement, at meals.

What about the use of plate rails? Very seldom, are they used successfully. Better omit the plate rail, unless the room is so high that a horizontal line is needed to break the unusual height. If there is a plate rail in the room, it is best to consider it as an architectural feature, and keep it free from china, pictures, and so forth. Occasionally, one sees a room in which a very few and unusually interesting objects are used successfully. For example, a pair of pewter plates, or a piece or two of brass or copper, may break up a wall space that seems too empty, and they may add a pleasant line, or a note of color. But the best of interior decorators agree that there should never be an array of china and bric-a-brac on the plate rail.

What about lighting the dining room? Since the table is the center of interest in the dining room, the most successful type of lighting is that which concentrates the light upon the table. In the dining room, it is rarely necessary to have a general lighting, therefore, a ceiling fixture, or one which throws the light against the ceiling, is not necessary. Ceiling

fixtures also give a less agreeable light than those which hang down over the table. Take care, in placing the dining room fixture, for the light must not shine into the eyes of the people at the table, and it must be so adjusted that the entire table will be well lighted.

Candles furnish the most delightful light for the dining room table, for they not only concentrate the light, and produce the most interesting reflections and shadows, but they make the table a more intimate center.

Last week, when I talked about the living room, I forgot to answer a question about furniture -- whether a home should be furnished in one type of furniture, or furniture that is of one period style

What do the interior decorators say about that? Our modern furniture is largely adapted from Italian, French, and English models. The Italian and French styles are very formal, and are suitable only for rich and formal houses. The English styles and the American Colonial styles, which were adapted from the English, are unpretentious, and particularly appropriate for our American homes.

Most of us are not so much interested in having "period" furniture as we are in having furniture which is beautiful in design, and which combines well with the other pieces in the room. Too much of any one kind of furniture is undesirable. If all the pieces are overstuffed, the room seems overpowering; too much wooden furniture produces a cold and hard effect; and if the room is furnished entirely in willow, it is monotonous, and seems to lack stability.

No more today, about interior decorating. Next Tuesday we'll talk about the bedroom of a homelike house.

Tomorrow I want to give you a menu, which includes two recipes. Since both the recipes are rather long, how would you like to take one of them today? Tomorrow's dessert is Lemon Sponge with Custard Sauce, and if you'll write this recipe today, our children's dinner will be simplified.

First, I'll broadcast the recipe for the Lemon Sponge. Seven ingredients, for Lemon Sponge:

2 tablespoons gelatin	Salt
1/2 cup cold water	3/4 cup lemon juice, and
2 cups boiling water	3 egg whites.
1 cup sugar	

Seven ingredients, for Lemon Sponge: (Repeat).

Soften the gelatin in the cold water, for 5 minutes. Add the boiling water, sugar, and a few grains of salt. Stir until dissolved. Add the lemon juice, chill, and when the mixture begins to set, beat well, and fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into a wet mold. Put in a cold place until firm. Turn out on a platter and serve with custard sauce made from the egg yolks.

This is the custard Sauce -- five ingredients, for Custard Sauce:

1 pint milk
1/4 cup sugar
Salt

3 egg yolks, and
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Five ingredients, for Custard Sauce: (Repeat).

Heat the milk, sugar, and a few grains of salt in a double boiler. Beat the egg yolks lightly, add some of the heated milk, pour back into the double boiler, and stir constantly until the custard coats the spoon. Remove at once, add the vanilla, place the pan in a bowl of cold water, and stir occasionally until cool.

Tomorrow: "Insuring Good Teeth for Johnny Junior."

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